

instructions to all local bodies/concerned agencies for taking strict action against defaulters as per the relevant laws.

Legislation to organise State Housing Boards

3098. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have plans for enacting special legislations to organise the State Housing Boards and strengthen the Cooperative Housing Movement in the country;

(b) if so, what are its broad features and by when such enactments would be made effective;

(c) whether Government would ensure that the requirement of one dwelling unit for a family, which is one of the basic ingredient of "Roti, Kapda Aur Makan" would be taken care of, so that even a poor can enjoy the civic environment and amenities; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government, as an enabler is considering the need to reorganise the housing agencies in the country and also the need for new Housing Board Acts. The proposed Acts should combine the advantages that are available to a corporatised body such as flexibility and speed in decision making, with the advantages that are inherent in the agency enjoying sovereign powers of the State, such as land acquisition and recovery of the dues as area of land revenue. As the proposed Act will be within the purview of States. Government of India will play a facilitating role only. It may not be possible to provide a time frame for the enactment of the proposed Act.

(c) and (d) The National Housing and Habitat Policy 1998, envisages provision of shelter and basic amenities to all through increased supply of developed land, promotion of cost-effective building materials, fiscal concessions for investment in housing, removal of legal / regulatory constraints and easier access to housing finance. The National Agenda for Governance envisages construction of an additional 2 million dwelling units primarily for weaker section every year. Out of this, 7 lakh units will be in urban areas and rest 13 lakh in rural Areas. Since housing is a State Subject, actual implementation of the plan lies with the State Governments.

Participation of NRIs in Housing Sector

3099. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Non-Resident Indians have been allowed to enter into housing sector in the country;